

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: COMBINED REPORT, EVENING, FEBRUARY 12, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NO. 12

TV/RADIO

1. JOE CAMELIC (GROUP W RADIO FROM CAIRO) -- FOR EGYPT  
THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF KISSIN-  
GER'S MEDIATION IS NOT THE TERMS OF ANOTHER SINAI DISEN-  
GAGEMENT, ALTHOUGH THAT OF COURSE IS A PRIMARY IMMEDIATE  
INTEREST, BUT RATHER THE COURSE OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS  
WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT BE-  
TWEEN THIS TRIP AND ANOTHER KISSINGER VISIT TO THE M.E. IN  
MARCH DETAILS FOR A SECOND STAGE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN THE  
SINAI WILL BE WORKED OUT. BARRING A SERIOUS SETBACK EGYPT  
WILL LIKELY GET THE TWO STRATEGIC MOUNTAIN PASSES AND THE  
ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS. IN EXCHANGE ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY  
GET AN EGYPTIAN STATEMENT OF PEACEFUL INTENTIONS AND THE  
PASSAGE OF ISRAELI-BOUND CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL  
WHEN IT REOPENS. THE REAL DIFFICULTY IS LIKELY TO ARISE  
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OUT OF EGYPT'S DESIRE AND NEED FOR A LINK BETWEEN A FURTHER

AGREEMENT IN SINAI AND ADDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY PRESIDENT SADAT CANNOT TAKE ANOTHER STEP WITH

ISRAEL UNLESS THERE IS A WRITTEN OR AT THE VERY LEAST VERBAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S., EGYPT, ISRAEL AND SYRIA THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AND SOON.

2. KOPPEL (ABC EVENING NEWS) -- KISSINGER ARRIVED AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ENGULFED IN A CROWD OF EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HEADED BY AMBASSADOR EILTS. ON THE BASIS OF MORE THAN SEVEN AND A HALF HOURS OF TALKS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS YESTERDAY, KISSINGER IS NOW CARRYING WITH HIM A RELATIVELY DETAILED SHOPPING LIST OF CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT THE ISRAELIS ARE DEMANDING IN EXCHANGE FOR A PULLBACK FROM THE ABY RUDEIS OIL FIELDS AND THE STRATEGIC MITLA AND GIDI PASSES IN THE SINAI DESERT. BUT KISSINGER PUT THE TERMS OF HIS MISSION HERE IN A MUCH BROADER CONTEXT IN HIS BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT.

THE SECRETARY: "I AM IN THIS AREA TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS A JUST AND LASTING PEACE AND TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP ON THAT ROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

DURING HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT HERE THIS AFTERNOON, KISSINGER IS APPLYING HIS OWN PERSONAL GAUGE TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE. BOTH ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN LEADERS FACE IMMENSE DOMESTIC PRESSURES. THE ISRAELIS NEED A TANGIBLE AND VISIBLE RETURN FROM PRESIDENT SADAT IN WHICH THEY CAN JUSTIFY TO THEIR OWN PUBLIC ANY CONCESSIONS THAT THEY MIGHT MAKE IN THE SINAI. IF TOO MUCH IS MADE PUBLIC, THOUGH, SADAT RISKS OSTRACISM FROM MOST OF THE ARAB WORLD. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT KISSINGER MAY CONCLUDE THAT ONLY A TOKEN SETTLEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVABLE IN MARCH -- A MODEST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI IN EXCHANGE FOR, SAY, AN 18-MONTH EXTENSION OF THE UN MANDATE THERE. EVERYTHING ELSE WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE TABLED IN GENEVA.

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3.  
JOHN SHEHAN (CBS RADIO FROM CAIRO) -- AFTER HIS CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE WAS SATISFIED. BUT SADAT LEFT ALL FURTHER OPTIMISTIC COMMENTS TO KISSINGER. SADAT RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO CALLING THE TALKS A SURVEY, LEAVING IT TO KISSINGER TO SAY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT MORE PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE. THIS KISSINGER ROUND IS CRUCIAL TO EGYPT

AND SADAT HAS A LOT TO LOSE. HE IS SITTING ON A POWDER KEG OF PUBLIC UNREST OVER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE LACK OF BASIC COMMODITIES IN THE MARKET. AND THE FACT THAT KISSINGER IS BACK IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS RAISED PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS. WITH FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS PEACE,

EGYPTIANS SAY, THERE CAN BE MORE GOVERNMENT SPENDING TO ALLEVIATE SHORTAGES AND LESS SPENDING ON WEAPONS. IF KISSINGER FAILS TO DELIVER A PACKAGE THAT LOOKS TO THE EGYPTIANS LIKE PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE, THEN SADAT AND HIS GOVERNMENT COULD BE SERIOUSLY WEAKENED.

4. JOHN CHANCELLOR (NBC EVENING NEWS) -- KISSINGER AND EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT CONFERRED FOR ABOUT FOUR HOURS TODAY IN CAIRO ON A POSSIBLE NEXT STEP IN A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. KISSINGER CAME TO CAIRO, EGYPT, FROM ISRAEL, TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS THE EGYPTIANS WOULD MAKE TO GET A FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SINAI DESERT. KISSINGER AND SADAT WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW. THE SECRETARY CALLED TODAY'S TALKS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE, AND SADAT SAID "I AM ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC WHEN I RECEIVE MY FRIEND HENRY."

5. KALB (CBS EVENING NEWS) -- CRONKITE: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER MET FOR 4 HOURS OUTSIDE OF CAIRO TODAY WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT. AFTERWARDS KISSINGER SAID HE IS CONFIDENT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN ACHIEVING AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE. SADAT DID NOT GO THAT FAR, SAYING ONLY THAT HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE TALKS SO FAR. KISSINGER TOOK HIS PEACE SHUTTLE TO EGYPT AFTER ASSURING ISRAELI LEADERS THAT FOR EVERY TERRITORIAL CONCESSION THEY MAKE, THE UNITED STATES FEELS THERE SHOULD BE A SUBSTANTIAL EGYPTIAN RESPONSE. MARVIN KALB REPORTS FROM CAIRO:

KALB: KISSINGER ARRIVED IN EGYPT FOR CRUCIAL TALKS WITH  
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PRESIDENT SADAT. HE WAS GREETED BY FM FAHMI, THE USUAL ARAB-STYLE EMBRACE. THE SECRETARY ALREADY HAS A PRETTY GOOD IDEA ABOUT EGYPTIAN THINKING FROM PRIVATE EXCHANGES PRECEDING HIS VISIT. BUT AT THE AIRPORT HIS COMMENTS WERE DIPLOMATICALLY ELIPTICAL AND HOPEFUL. ABOUT EGYPTIAN THINKING KISSINGER KNOWS THIS ALREADY: THAT SADAT WILL AGREE TO SOME TIME LIMIT ON ENDING THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITH ISRAEL; THAT SADAT HAS URGENT DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND QUARRELS WITH RADICAL ARABS DRIVING HIM TO A DEAL WITH ISRAEL THAT WILL HELP JUSTIFY HIS CONTINUING DEALINGS WITH KISSINGER AND THE UNITED STATES. THE KEY IS WHAT CONCESSIONS SADAT MAY MAKE. IF THESE CONCESSIONS PROVE TO BE MODEST, WHICH IS WHAT THE SECRETARY SUSPECTS, THEN KISSINGER MAY VERY WELL PUSH FOR A VERY LIMITED AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME -- A MODEST ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND PULLBACK

IN THE SINAI, NOT INCLUDING THE SINAI PASSES OR THE OIL FIELDS, IN EXCHANGE FOR AN 18-MONTH SUSPENSION OF BELLIGERENCY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES -- JUST ENOUGH TIME, HE THINKS, FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO MEET AND THRASH OUT THE DEEPER, MORE COMPLICATED ISSUES STILL DIVIDING ISRAEL FROM THE ARAB STATES.

NEWSPAPERS/WIRES

1. RESTON IN LATIMES FEBRUARY 12 (P. 1) LED WITH HAK JERUSALEM BANQUET QUOTE THAT US "WILL NOT KNOWINGLY SACRIFICE ISRAEL" IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT TO SATISFY SUPER-POWER POLITICS. RESTON LATER DISCUSSED ISRAELI SINAI TRIP FOR US PRESS AND SAID IT WAS BELIEVED HAK "HEARD SIMILAR POINTS" ON VALUE OF SINAI PASSES IN TUESDAY TALKS IN JERUSALEM. US AND ISRAELI SPOKESMAN, RESTON WROTE, DESCRIBED MEETINGS AS "VERY FRIENDLY" BUT REFUSED TO GO INTO DETAIL, ALTHOUGH ISRAELI SIDE SAID IT OFFERED HAK FULL PRESENTATION OF ITS POSITION IN MORE DETAIL THAN IN PREVIOUS TALKS. ISRAELI SPOKESMAN QUOTED THAT "NO DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AND NO DECISIONS WERE NECESSARY."

2. AFTERNOON WIRES: AP'S SCHWEID LED WITH HAK AND SADAT EXPRESSING "CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM" AFTER TALKING ABOUT "POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS" FOR ISRAELI SINAI PULLBACK. QUOTES HAK THAT "I AM CONFIDENT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE" AND SADAT THAT THEY HAD "MADE A SURVEY OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM AND THIS IS QUITE SUFFICIENT FOR THE MOMENT."

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I AM SATISFIED. I AM ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC WHEN I RECEIVE MY FRIEND HENRY." SCHWEID FURTHER QUOTES HAK THAT "WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN CLARIFYING THE ISSUES AND INDICATING THE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH A SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND. THE BASIC PROBLEM IS TO BRING PEACE TO THE ENTIRE AREA AND THAT IS THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM. IN REACHING THAT, THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INDIVIDUAL STEPS, AND I PERSONALLY HAVE SOME IDEAS WHAT THESE STEPS MIGHT BE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL PEACE." SCHWEID REPORTED HAK SAID HE WILL RETURN TO THE ME AROUND MARCH 10.

EARLIER SCHWEID WROTE THAT HAK BROUGHT "DETAILED ISRAELI POSITION" FROM JERUSALEM INCLUDING ABOUT DOZEN SPECIFIC STEPS TOWARD END OF ARABS' ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. STORY SAID US OFFICIAL TOLD NEWSMEN ISRAEL INSISTING ON SIGNED DOCUMENT FROM EGYPT MARKING END TO ALMOST 27 YEARS OF HOSTILITIES IN RETURN FOR (SINAI) WITHDRAWAL OF UP TO 30 MILES AND EVACUATION OF ABU RUDEIS AND MITLA AND GIDI PASSES. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT ISRAEL WOULD NEED GUARANTEE OF ALTERNATE SOURCE OF PETROLEUM IF IT GIVES UP ABU RUDEIS. SCHWEID ALSO CITED "SOURCES" AS SAYING OTHER STEPS WOULD INCLUDE MOVEMENT OF

ISRAEL-BOUND CARGO THROUGH CANAL, TOURIST TRAVEL BETWEEN  
TWO COUNTRIES AND EXCHANGES OF JOURNALISTS, SPORTS AND  
CULTURAL GROUPS.

NO-BYLINE UPI FROM CAIRO QUOTED HAK THAT HE AND SADAT MADE  
"PROGRESS" IN FIRST TALKS WEDNESDAY. STORY SAID SADAT,

"ALTHOUGH UNSMILING, TERMED THEM 'VERY FRUITFUL,' AND  
SAID HE WAS SATISFIED." STORY SAID HAK, BEFORE MEETING  
WITH SADAT, EXPRESSED OPTIMISM AND SAID HE WOULD "DEFINI-  
TELY" BE RETURNING TO ME NEXT MONTH.

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